Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SSC-01 FEA-01 INT-05 AGR-05

OES-03 DOTE-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 /091 W ------ 006993

R 130617Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2617

INFO AMCONGEN ASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EIND ET

 $SUBJECT:\ MINISTRY\ OF\ NATURAL\ RESOURCES\ DEVELOPMENT\ (MNRD)$

ESTABLISHED

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0220

- 1. THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD, THE MINISTRY WILL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS: INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, HOTELS AND TOURISM, MINING, SALES, AND SERVICES.
- 2. A FEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE NEW MINISTRY HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED BUT FROM THE SKETCHY INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IT APPEARS THAT CERTAIN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(E.G., DAILY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION) AND MOST PUBLICLY

OWNED ENTERPRISES WILL BE CONSOLIDATED INTO THIS MINISTRY. DECISIONS ON WHICH OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO INCLUDE IN THE NEW MINISTRY ARE CURRENTLY BEING MADE. APPARENTLY THE EXTENSIVE SHARE HOLDINGS OF THESE ENTERPIRSES HELD BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MNRD. ACCORDING TO ATO TADDESSE MOGESSE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, THIS REORGANIZATION WAS UNDERTAKEN TO IMPORVE THE OPERATIONS OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND TO RELIEVE THE VARIOUS MINISTERS OF MANAGEMENT RESPON-SIBILITIES FOR THESE ACTIVITIES THEREBY PERMITTING THEM TO FOCUS ON THEIR PRIMARY DUTIES. HE STATED THAT A NEW BOARD, CHAIRED BY THE MINISTER OF MNRD AND COMPRISED OF THE GENERAL MANAGERS OF THE AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS, WILL DEVELOP POLICY AND ENSURE APPROPRIATE COORDINATION.

3. COMMENT: IF THE FOREGOING PROVES ACCURATE THE NEW MINISTRY WILL BE AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL ONE, ITS INFLUENCE BEING GAINED MOSTLY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE AIDB. ASSETS WORTH UP TO ROUGHLY ETH\$400 MILLION COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO IT AND IT WILL PROBABLY FALL HEIR TO ANY NEWLY NATIONALIZED ACTIVITIES AND NEW GOVERNMENT-RUN ECONOMIC UNDERTAKINGS. WHETHER IMPORVED MANAGEMENT RESULTS IS ANOTHER MATTER AND WILL BE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE QUALITY OF THE MANAGERIAL STAFF OF THE ENTERPRISES AND THE LATITUDE THEY ARE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 JAN 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS00366

Document Number: 1975ADDIS00366
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D750012-0356 From: ADDIS ABABA

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750158/aaaabyzq.tel Line Count: 89

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Classification: Limited Openor Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 ADDIS ABABA 0220 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: MorefiRH

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (MNRD) ESTABLISHED

TAGS: EIND, ET To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006